

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: OECD 1974 PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET

REF: (A) C(73)135; (B) STATE 226088; (C) C(73)241;
(D) C(73)242.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. OECD BUDGET COMMITTEE HAS COMPLETED FIRST ROUND DISCUSSIONS 1974 BUDGET. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EXAMINATION BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT, REF C, AND SECRETARY-GENERAL'S COMMENTS, REF D, SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 12. END SUMMARY. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS PARA 7 BY DECEMBER 12.

2. THOROUGH REVIEW CONTROLLABLE OPERATING EXPENSES (SUCH AS TRAVEL AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION), REQUESTS FOR NEW POSTS, AS WELL AS CERTAIN TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS RESULTED IN BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDING REDUCTION 4.6 MILLION FRANCS FORM PART I BUDGET.

3. SECRETARY-GENERAL ACCEPTS ALL BUDGET REDUCTIONS EXCEPT THOSE FOR CONSULTANTS, CONFERENCES AND CREATION OF NEW POSITIONS (LISTED ANNEX II REF A). COST IN AREAS DISAGREEMENT IS ABOUT 1.8 MILLION FRANCS.

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BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED CREATION EIGHT NEW POSTS

AND ABOLISHMENT SEVEN EXISTING POSTS IN ADMINISTRATION, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION. COMMITTEE DID NOT RPT NOT RECOMMEND CREATION SIX A-LEVEL POSTS FOR PRIVATE OFFICE OF SECRETARY-GENERAL (3), COUNCIL SECRETARIAT, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, AND FINANCIAL AND FISCAL AFFAIRS, FIVE SECRETARIAL POSTS IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, TRADE, FINANCIAL AND FISCAL AFFAIRS, SCIENCE AND MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, AND ONE TRANSLATOR POST IN ADMINISTRATION.

4. SECRETARY-GENERAL WILL WAGE ACTIVE CAMPAIGN IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, COUNCIL AND PRIVATE DISCUSSION HAVE THESE POSTS ACCEPTED. SEC GEN ALSO OPPOSES ABOLISHMENT THREE POSTS IN EDUCATION (PARA 334B AND E, REF A) AND WILL SEEK DECISION ON SUBSTANCE PROGRAM PRIOR DEALING WITH RESOURCE ASPECT. LIKELY THAT COMPELLING CASE BE PRESENTED COUNCIL TO ACCEPT MOST REQUESTS FOR CREATION A-LEVEL POSTS AND SEVERAL OF THE SECRETARIAL POSITIONS.

5. UNLIKELY BE EXTENSIVE COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS ON ACCEPTABLE REDUCTIONS IN PART II BUDGET REQUESTS.

A. DEVELOPMENT CENTER - PROPOSED REDUCTION OF 573 THOUSAND FRANCS INCLUDES ADJUSTMENT IN OVERHEAD COSTS, TRAVEL, CONSULTANTS, AND APPROVAL CREATION A-4 POST BALANCED BY ABOLISHMENT OF AN A-3 POST.

B. ROAD RESEARCH - REDUCTION OF 133 THOUSAND FRANCS INCLUDES ADJUSTMENT IN CONSULTANT FUNDS, OPERATING EXPENDITURES AND OVERHEAD COSTS.

6. COUNCIL WILL RETURN TO INITIAL FRENCH PROPOSALS TO IDENTIFY EXISTING PROGRAMS WHERE BUDGETARY SAVINGS COULD BE MADE (REF B). NO CHANGE ANTICIPATED IN FISHERIES AND TOURISM PROGRAMS. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS (FRANCE, UK, JAPAN) FAVOR DISCONTINUANCE AGRICULTURAL REVIEW AND FREE RESOURCES FOR USE ELSEWHERE IN ORGANIZATION. MOREOVER, UK DELEGATION HAS SUGGESTED CUTBACK OR ABOLISHMENT OF PRESS REVIEW SECTION IN

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INFORMATION SERVICE (PARA 559, REF A). RESOURCES INVOLVED THIS ACTIVITY ARE THREE PERMANENT POSITIONS, TOTAL BUDGET COSTS OF 200 THOUSAND FRANCS

7. SUBJECT RESOLUTION ISSUE CREATION POSTS AND POSSIBLE ABOLISHMENT ACTIVITIES OUTLINED PARA 6, MISSION BELIEVES THAT PROPOSED SELECTIVE REDUCTIONS RECOMMENDED BY BUDGET COMMITTEE ARE IN ACCORD WITH OUR PRIORITY

INTERESTS AND WOULD NOT IMPAIR EFFECTIVENESS OF WORK
PROGRAM. MISSION SUPPORTS ABOLISHMENT PRESS REVIEW
SECTION WHICH IS MARGINAL ACTIVITY WITH LITTLE IMPACT
ON SUBSTANTIVE WORK PROGRAM. DELEGATIONS FAVORING
ABOLISHING AGRICULTURAL REVIEW WILL POSE STRONG CASE
THAT THIS PUBLICATION AN EXAMPLE INSTITUTIONAL
ADVERTISING THAT HAS LITTLE OR NO POLICY IMPACT.
MISSION REQUESTS RE-EXAMINATION PRIOR INSTRUCTIONS.
IF, AFTER RE-EXAMINATION THIS ISSUE, DEPARTMENT WISHES
MISSION SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF AGRICULTURAL REVIEW,
REQUEST WE BE SUPPLIED APPROPRIATE AND CONVINCING
ARGUMENTATION FOR USE IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND
COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS.BROWN

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